

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00550 201410Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----061282 201414Z /72

O 201325Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6974
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 550

EXDIS

MOGADISCIO FOR SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SITHOLE REPRESENTATIVE

1. SUMMARY: SITHOLE REP, DR. GOPO SHOWED NO
INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE AND DELIVERED A MESSAGE
FROM SITHOLE THAT THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT WAS IRREVERSIBLE.
END SUMMARY.

2. GRAHAM PARTY WITH EMB POLITICAL COUNSELOR PRESENT
MET WITH DR. GOPO AT BRITISH EMB ON MARCH 18.
AFTER GRAHAM EXPLAINED THE PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF ALL
THE PARTIES, DR. GOPO SAID HE HAD BEEN PROVIDED AN "ADVANCE
ANSWER" BY SITHOLE. SITHOLE, DR. GOPO SAID, WISHED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00550 201410Z

TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WAS "SEALED
AND IRREVERSIBLE". THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS EXCLUDED
ITSELF; BUT IT IS STILL WELCOME TO COME. "WHAT WE WANT,"
DR. GOPO SAID, " IS FOR THE US AND UK TO TELL US WHAT
IS WRONG WITH THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT RATHER THAN TO SEEK
ANOTHER CONFERENCE TO APPEASE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT".
GOPO CONCEDED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD MADE VICTORY

POSSIBLE OVER SMITH BUT SAID THAT IT SHOULD NOT TRY TO DICTATE. THE REALITY IN AFRICA, HE SAID, IS THAT IF YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONTROL OF THE GUN HE WILL RULE.

3. GRAHAM EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE SEEKING FOR WAYS TO DETERMINE THE FREE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE. IT WAS INDISPUTABLE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD SOME SUPPORT AND THAT THE FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING. WE WERE NOT APPEASING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT NOR DID IT HAVE A VETO, GRAHAM SAID, BUT IT WAS PRACTICAL POLITICS TO TRY TO FIND A REASONABLE FRAMEWORK TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A FREE ELECTION.

4. GOPO SAID THAT SITHOLE SEES THE ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO NKOMO AND MUGABE AND AS CREATING THE SITUATION FOR CIVIL WAR. GOPO COMPLAINED THAT THE UN, UK AND US HAD ALL CONDEMNED THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT WITHOUT TAKING TIME TO ASSESS ITS ACCEPTABILITY.

5. AT THE PRESENT, GOPO SAID, "WE ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, CRISS-CROSSING THE COUNTRY. CONTACTING ALL RACES, ASSESSING REACTION AND EXPLAINING THE AGREEMENT TO SEE IF IT IS ACCEPTABLE". AFTER FORMATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVT, GOPO ASSERTED, SITHOLE WILL GIVE THE ORDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00550 201410Z

TO ZANLA FORCES TO CEASE FIRE. GOPO HAD NO DOUBT THT A CEASE FIRE WITH ZANLA FORCES WITHIN RHODESIA WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THERE WAS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CEASE FIRE AND DISARMING AS THE LATTER WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO ACCOMPLISH. THEIR TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT, GOPO SAID, IS THAT THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE GURRILLAS INSIDE THE COUNTRY, ARE "WHOLE-HEARTEDLY" IN FAVOR OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT. AS EVIDENCE, HE POINTED TO A RECENT RALLY FOR SITHOLE AT UMTALLE WHERE 25,000 PEOPLE REPORTEDLY GREETED NEWS OF THE AGREEMENT. GUERRILLAS IN THE RURAL AREAS, GOPO ASSERTED, HAD PUT UP POSTERS URGING PEOPLE TO GO TO THE RALLY.

6. GOPO SAID THAT WHILE ZANLA GUERRILLAS WOULD SOON LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS (HE DID NOT REFER TO ZAPU FORCES), SOME SKIRMISHES WOULD CONTINUE. BUT "WE'RE WILLING TO DEFEND WITH OUR OWN BLOOD WHAT WE DECIDE", HE SAID. GOPO CLAIMED THERE ARE "INDICATIONS" THAT "THOUSANDS OF DETAINEES" WILL SOON BE FREE AND THAT PROTECTED VILLAGES WILL BE DISMANTLED. GOPO AGREED THAT SMITH AT ANY TIME COULD FALL BACK ON THE AGREEMENT BUT ASSERTED

THAT THEY BELIEVE THIS TIME SMITH IS SERIOUS. ASKED
HOW THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR WOULD BE MANAGED, GOPO
SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD A MILITARY TRIBUNAL COMPOSED
OF ZANLA AND RDF LEADERS MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED BUT
THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT.

7. WHEN GRAHAM UNDERSCORED THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN
SUCH EXERCISES AS THE RECENT RHODESIAN RAID INTO
ZAMBIA, GOPO AT FIRST RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY
WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RAID REPEATED. UNDER CRITICISM HE BACKED
DOWN AND SAID "SPEAKING SERIOUSLY", HE WOULD NOT
LIKE TO SEE FORCE USED AGAINST "OUR CHILDREN" IN THE
MILITARY CAMPS IN ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE.
BOWDLER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAPE T 00550 201410Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0705
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaaboug.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9154f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272472
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SITHOLE REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: PDEV, RH, (GOPO), (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9154f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014